

Bringing Live Theatre to Local Rural Communities



a Sub-Committee of the Kyogle & District Arts Council

VHP
Vagaries

Issue: 7

January
2014

Australia Day Awards

WINNER

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



The Village Hall Players (VHP) are very excited and proud to have received nominations in four categories in the Kyogle Australia Day Awards and ecstatic that the DIRT program won one category for *“providing young people with access to the dramatic arts”*.

VHP was nominated in the *Contribution to Community Programs and Activities* category for its “commitment to revitalising community halls through the Arts” and in the *Contribution to the Creative Industries* category for its “work in

providing live theatre for small and isolated communities”.

DIRT’s other nomination was in the *Contribution to Enhancing Children’s Participation in the Community* category “for providing the young people of Kyogle and District with access to the dramatic arts including the technical skills of make-up, costume design, sound and lighting”.

The VHP committee members, DIRT instructors and all our volunteers sincerely thank those who nominated us.



DIRT News

DIRT is back in 2014 at the KMI Hall on Thursday afternoons from 4 pm till 6 pm commencing **6th February**. Bree Johnston will join Lynette Zito in teaching the program this year.

The first term in 2014 of our theatre program for young people, will see students create an original play which will go into production and be performed by the students at the end of June.

DIRT provides an opportunity for 8 to 17 year olds to develop skills and to participate in a collaborative process while having fun and improving communication and team building skills. The program includes training in theatre sports, stagecraft, drama, technical theatre, and design (sets, costumes and makeup).

The number of participants is limited to 20 and places are offered on a first-in basis. The cost for the program is \$7/week per child or \$5/week each for two or more siblings.



Above: More improv



Above: DIRT students improv work

In the second half of 2013, our students worked hard at their exercises, improv work (see photos), theatre poetry and many other types of theatre activities. There were two makeup workshops – one on bruises and one of cuts and grazes – and a special Halloween class where the students got to wrap the mummy! Much fun was had by all.



Below: Mummy wrapping fun!



Above: Well that's that mummy wrapped!



Above: Looks real, doesn't it?

And didn't the students have fun showing Mum and Dad their bruises and grazes and, being actors and kids, spinning some wonderful stories about how they got them. We hope you enjoy the photos!

Audition Call

The Village Hall Players (VHP) is calling auditions for its production of *We'll Always Have Paris* by Jill Hyem. We are looking for **actors, singers and crew** – male and female and any age from 18 to 80!

The production is a two act comedy set in Paris. All roles are to be cast.

Auditions will be held at 6.30pm on 4 February 2014 at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street, Kyogle. Auditionees will need to read scenes from the script and, if auditioning for a singing role, will need to have prepared a song to sing a cappella.

1 Male and 4 Female actors are required. 1 Male and 1 Female singers are also required – both of these roles can be filled by an actor/singer.

VHP brings quality theatre productions to local halls and is always looking for new people of all ages to join - experience optional! Community theatre offers a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and develop or hone your acting talent while having fun.



Play Reading Group

Village Hall Players invites everyone to come along to its Play Reading Group at 6.30pm on 5th February 2014.

Meeting once a fortnight, the Group is made up of both actors and non-actors. A large number of plays are available to cater for the number of readers and different tastes and may be one, two or even three acts.

Come along even if you have no interest in performing before an audience. If you love reading aloud or simply listening and enjoy good company, you will be most welcome.

Please contact Lynette on 0429 922 169 for details if you are interested in coming along or would like more information.

Further details about VHP and all our programs are available on our website www.villagehallplayers.com.



Playwrights' Competition News

Patron: John Summons

VHP is very proud to announce that its [Inaugural Playwrights' Competition](#) will be judged by an independent panel made up of Australian playwright and educator, **John Summons**; **Janeen Silcock**, Principal of Kyogle High School and an English and Drama teacher; and **Debb Mills**, member of the Kyogle & District Arts Council, artist and experienced actor and director in community theatre.

The competition calls for previously unpublished and unproduced one or two act stage plays. There are three sections available to entrants: Open, Indigenous and Under 18 and entries in the Indigenous section can be either by an Indigenous playwright or on an Indigenous theme. They can also be both.

The **deadline for entries has been extended** to 5 pm on Friday 18th April 2014. For full competition details and information on the Village Hall Players, go to their website www.villagehallplayers.com.

Entries have already started coming in and, given the talent in our community, we are sure that there are many more on the way.

(Help us help our budding playwrights and make this a success by passing on word of the competition through your networks. Thanks, Ed.)



Vagaries

Apologies if you've all been hanging out for this Issue, which was supposed to come out in October, but what can I say?

VHP had a huge year in 2013 with four productions and we hope that many of you were able to make it to at least one of our performances. Those productions challenged us both artistically and physically. We received a lot of positive feedback from audiences, some deserved constructive criticism, and wonderful critical acclaim for the Light and Dark production.

We also has a full year with our Community Involvement program starting the year with a performance at the Kyogle Seniors' Week concert and ending the year on a high with our appearance at the Kyogle Lions Club Christmas Carols. In between, we performed street theatre at the Kyogle Bazaar and assisted the Kyogle Community Cinema Committee with a fundraiser.

This year, with the loss of two of our favourite actors, Meg Ainsworth and Paul Worsnop, and our Vice-President, stage manager and actor Gordon Hook being unavailable due to other commitments till mid-April, we are hoping that if you can help us out (we need actors and crew), please come along to one of our auditions or contact us – email address below.

We'll be holding auditions in February for upcoming productions, so hope to see some new talent joining us this year.

Our very best wishes to our wonderful Patrons, supporters, sponsors and audience members for 2014. May it bring you love, peace and some very good theatre!

Editor

